

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

Mrs. D. P. Bowers in "Donna Diana." Mr. Westland Maxson's adaptation of the old classical Spanish comedy which was performed last evening at the Walnut, under the title of "Love's Masquerade," calls to mind Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing, at least so far as the leading characters are concerned. And it is not interesting to note how two nearly contemporary dramatists have elaborated the same idea. In Shakespeare's comedy the plot turns on the intrigue of "Don John," and his false accusation of "Hero," but "Beatrice" and "Benedick" who are merely secondary, so far as the plot is concerned, are made the principal personages in the play, and Shakespeare, after his usual manner, has subordinated his plot to his characters. In the Spanish comedy, however, the plot is an essential, and there are no characters in the Shakespearean sense of the word. "Donna Diana" and "Don Cesar" are conventional types rather than individuals, and the Spanish princess bears only so much resemblance to Shakespeare's witty heroine that she falls at marriage and lives to repent of it. Shakespeare's poverty of invention is shown by his employing the same somewhat transparent device to entrap both the hero and heroine, but with the Spanish dramatist the intrigue is all-important, and the interest of the play is maintained by the plots and counterplots by which the principal personages seek to circumvent each other.

"Donna Diana," is not a gay, laughter-loving and sharp-tongued woman like "Beatrice," but she is a haughty Spanish beauty, who, having been deceived by suitors who aspired to possess her wealth and her principally rather than her self, disdains all mankind, esteems love a cheat and delusion, and determines to keep her face and fortune in her own hands, by living a life of single blessedness. "Don Cesar," ardent as a lover is advised by "Perin" her confidential secretary, to assume a disdainful attitude to her own, and thus conquer her pride and win her love. The shifts and turns by which this result is brought about make the substance of the play; and the lady's struggles between pride and love, and the gentleman's almost ineffectual efforts to affect an air of philosophical indifference which he does not feel, give rise to a number of exceedingly effective "situations." A scene in the second act, where "Diana" betrays "Don Cesar" into a declaration of love only to repudiate him, and then almost sinks with rage and mortification when he remembers "Perin's" admonitions, and estingly declares he is only seeing the part of a lover at her own request, is admirable. We consider "Love's Masquerade" as one of the best and most entertaining comedies that has been given to the English-speaking stage of late years, and we only wonder that it is not oftener represented, as we never yet saw an audience that did not enjoy it heartily. The burden of the acting rests upon the representatives of the three leading characters, and if these are reasonably competent a satisfactory performance is assured. The half dozen subordinate characters serve merely to fill up the scene, and do not make any great demands in the way of acting, so that it does not materially damage the play as a whole if they are not given in first-rate style.

"Donna Diana" is one of Mrs. Bowers' very best personations. The part is admirably suited to her style of acting; it calls for the expression of very varied emotions, and it affords ample opportunity for the display of the highest order of talent. Mrs. Bowers' performance last evening was exceedingly good, and the many telling points of the comedy were given in a style that excited the heartiest applause and ensured a call before the curtain at the end of the play. In this and other roles for which she is particularly adapted. Mrs. Bowers appears to much more advantage than in those which she sometimes attempts, such as "Elizabeth," "Marie Antoinette," "Jane Shore," and some others, and in her own particular line she is almost without a rival.

So far as we are aware, Mrs. Bowers has never played "Elsie Venner" in this city. We saw her some four or five years ago appear in a dramatization of Dr. Holmes' curious story, in another city, and although the play itself possessed no remarkable merit, we remember Mrs. Bowers' conception and acting of the character as being singularly effective. Why she does not perform the part oftener of course she knows better than we do.

Mr. McCollom made a very fair representative of "Don Cesar." This gentleman has improved considerably since we last saw him, but he did not equal Mr. Watcot, who gave a really superior personation of "Don Cesar" when we last saw this play two years ago. Mr. McCollom declaimed his way through the piece, and made the obvious points in good style, but he had no particular idea of the character, and gave none of the subtle play which is so expressive, and which would give an artistic stamp to his performance. Mr. Watcot, we remember, played the part of an ardent lover, trembling at the lady's refusal to carry on the war against her, dependent after each defeat, and only kept to his work by the encouragement of "Perin."

Last evening Mr. Watcot took the part of "Perin," and acted it with spirit, but rather carelessly, we thought. The confidant, in this instance the secretary of the heroine, is an important personage in a Spanish drama of intrigue, and resembles nothing in the ordinary plays of the English stage. The character requires to be skilfully performed, for, as we before remarked, the interest of the piece depends upon him and the other two leading personages.

The play last night was, on the whole, given in good style, and to the manifest enjoyment of the audience.

will be his last appearance previous to his departure for California. A portion of the proceeds of the performance will be given to the Philadelphia Society for Charitable Purposes. CARL SEXTZ and Mark Hassler's orchestra will perform at Musical Fund Hall to-morrow afternoon.

LA COTERIE CARNIVAL.—Within a few years masquerade balls have attracted a favorable share of public attention, and received the patronage of many of our best citizens. Among others, "La Coterie Carnival," projected by Messrs. A. & H. H. H. has occupied a decidedly conspicuous position. They directed their attention from the first to the one grand object of making "La Coterie Carnival" unobjectionable in all its features. All that the most cultivated taste and perfect judgment could do to gain so desirable a consummation was done, and the balls, as given by them, are now recognized as pre-eminently the most magnificent by which they are characterized. At the ball to take place on Monday evening, January 11, 1869, the dancing music will be conducted by Carl SEXTZ, and the promenade by Professor Theodore Hermann, and a choice selection will be given. Adolph Prokter will serve the refreshments. Messrs. E. Aho & Co. and Vanhorn, costumers, are making a variety of costumes for the occasion. The directors are determined not to be equaled in their undertaking. In every point "La Coterie Carnival" of this season will, if possible, surpass all former entertainments of the kind.

Tickets to be obtained by subscription only. May be had of Mr. P. E. Abel, at Peterson's, No. 306 Chestnut street.

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PROTECTION TO OUR PATRONS.—To fully carry out the above business rule at the present time, we have

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MEET ALL BE SOLD, as it was manufactured for that special purpose. To insure this we intend to continue, as heretofore, to give all customers

MORE VALUE FOR THEIR MONEY than they can get elsewhere, under any and all circumstances. Call on us, hear our prices, and examine our goods before purchasing.

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THE TRUE MEDICAL DOCTRINE.—Nature, when struggling with disease, indicates unmistakably the kind of assistance she requires. In cases of nervous weakness and general debility, the feeble pulse, the lack-lustre eye, the attenuated frame, the flaccid muscles, the melancholy visage, inform us as plainly as if each organ had a tongue, that a medicinal stimulant is needed. It does not require the aid of a medical education to understand this dumb appeal for new vigor from an exhausted system. Every reader of these lines can comprehend it just as well as the graduate of a physician's college. Let not this demand of feeble nature be neglected. Respond to it promptly by commencing a course of HERRICK'S STOMACH BITTERS, a preparation uniting, in their highest excellence, the properties of a stimulant, an invigorant, and an alterative. Barring three days have elapsed from the taking of the draught, a marked beneficial change will be manifest in the bodily and mental condition of the patient. The pulse will be stronger and more regular, the eye will begin to lose its dull expression, the muscular and nervous systems to recover their tension, and the spirit of winter often intensifies these complaints by checking the perspiratory action, by which so much morbid matter is evaporated through the pores in milder weather, and therefore the BITTERS are especially useful to the dyspeptic and bilious at this season.

WOELFFER & BROELER (successors to C. A. Bate), shirt manufacturers and wholesale and retail dealers in Ladies' and Gents' Furnishing Goods, are making at their store, No. 22 North Eighth street, the branch, No. 241 North Ninth street, a magnificent holiday display. The reputation which these two establishments have acquired is well merited; for at them every purchaser can find articles exactly suited to his fancy, and in buying has the certain assurance that the goods will accord with the representations. The Messrs. Woelffer are wide awake, and fully up to the times. Nothing new in their line makes its appearance but they at once secure it. Their thorough business enterprise and activity have made their two establishments great popular depots for furnishing goods of every description. Entire satisfaction both in the quality and price of goods is guaranteed, and no person can utter the complaint that was ever directed at either of the stores. Only let the risk be made, and the result will be found to be just what any one acquainted with the standing of the places could have predicted—a determination to purchase there, and at no other place, in the future.

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CHARLES STOKES & Co., never allow a garment to leave their First-class CUSTOMER CLOTHING HOUSE unless it is a perfect fit and entirely satisfactory to the purchaser.

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AN ARTICLE OF MERIT.—Nothing affords us more pleasure than when we can cordially recommend to our readers an article of merit. We refer to the "Standard Wine Bitters" of Mr. Alfred Spear, the base of which is his justly celebrated Wine, combined with the bitter principle of the best tonics, herbs, and roots which are known to our most eminent chemists and medical practitioners, and will, by a use of them, give tone and vivify the system, and put all its functions into healthy exercise. See his advertisement in another column. For sale by Druggists.

FINE FRENCH CALF BOOTS AND GAITERS.—The man who has never experienced the pleasure of wearing a pair of boots made by William H. Helweg, is to some extent an object of commiseration. We speak knowingly, having worn Helweg's boots for years. Their comfort, however, is not their only recommendation, as they are made of the best material and in the very best manner. Helweg will not employ an incompetent workman; therefore his work is always first-class. His store and factory is at No. 335 Arch Street, next to the corner of Sixth.

A HACKING COUGH is one of the most distressing as well as dangerous forms of cough one can be afflicted with. It continues action fatigues and irritates the lungs, and thus engenders consumption. Upham's Fresh Meat Cure will cure the cough, soothe the irritated bronchial, and give tone and vigor to the lungs and whole system.

A single bottle will convince any one of its purity. Sold one dollar per bottle. JOHNSON, HOLLOWAY & COWDEN, No. 602 Arch street.

JEWELRY.—Mr. William W. Cassidy, No. 12 South Second street, has the largest and most attractive assortment of the every and silverware in the city. Purchasers can rely upon obtaining a real, pure article furnished at a price which cannot be equalled. He also has a large stock of American Western watches in all varieties and at all prices. A visit to his store is sure to result in pleasure and profit.

FOAL COAL COLE for the million. Now is the time to lay in your winter's store of coal. Old King Point is the best coal for the money, and the most now is waiting your feet. Build bigger fires and bid the cold devils adieu. Put to bed the fire you never have good coal—each where should be put down it is not at the celebrated Acker's No. 97 North Ninth street (off of Sixth and Spruce) Garden street. He has the coal regions—and is ready to furnish you with all sizes and kinds, at the very lowest prices.

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TUNNERS the success of P. C. BENT, at No. 85 Chestnut street, has recently issued in addition to all his other publications, a most excellent Cook Book, at a low price of one dollar. It is just the thing for Christmas "cookies."

MARRIED.—McBRIETY—PLUNKETT.—On the 10th of November, at St. Patrick's Church, Wilmington, Delaware, by the Right Rev. Bishop Beaser, WILLIAM McBRIDE, of Baltimore, to ELLEN, daughter of Philip Plunkett, of the former city.

WEYANT—VAN MEETER.—On November 25, at Kensington, N. J. Passage, No. 22 Broadway street by Rev. W. J. Peters, Mr. HARRY B. WHYANT to Miss ALICE VAN MEETER, both of this city.

DIED.—HENNEY.—On the 9th instant, DOLLIE HENNEY, daughter of Joseph and Martha Henney, aged 1 year and 1 month. The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her grandparents, John and Sarah Henney, No. 927 E. Sixth street, on Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, interment at Philadelphia Cemetery.

COOPER.—On the morning of the 10th instant, Mrs. V. H. COOPER, widow of William F. and Elizabeth A. Cooper in the 21st year of her age. The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her parents, No. 718 N. Twelfth street, on Monday morning, the 14th instant, at 10 o'clock. To proceed to Cedar Hill Cemetery, without further notice.

PAFFENBARGER.—Suddenly, on the 10th instant, GEORGE W. PAFFENBARGER, aged 68 years, died at his residence, No. 122 Spruce street, on Saturday afternoon, the 12th instant, at 10 o'clock.

LEIB—PELL.—On the 10th instant, at St. Luke's Church, by Rev. M. A. De Witte, HOWE, D. D. HARRISON LEIB to M. E. Pell, daughter of the late Peter D. Pell, all of Philadelphia.

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WE ARE GLAD THE PEOPLE APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY, AND ARE GETTING SUCH BARGAINS. WE HAVE STILL AN IMMENSE STOCK. WANAMAKER & BROWN, OAK HALL, THE LARGEST CLOTHING HOUSE, THE CORNER OF SIXTH AND MARKET STREETS.

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